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News Release

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Red Lake woman sentenced to 10 years for the murder of Angela Brown

A 31-year-old Red Lake woman was sentenced yesterday to 10 years in federal prison for the murder of Angela Joy Brown, also of Red Lake, on May 2, 2007. Melanie Frances Bedeau must also serve five years of supervised release and pay restitution to Brown's family.

"The sentence reflects the seriousness of the offense charged," said United States District Court Judge David Doty, who issued the sentence April 14 in Minneapolis. "Ten years is a long sentence."

Bedeau pleaded guilty to one count of murder in the second degree on Jan. 11, 2008. She was indicted on Aug. 22, 2007.

According to Bedeau's plea agreement, Bedeau and her boyfriend attended a wedding party at her sister's home, located within the Red Lake Indian Reservation, on May 2, 2007. There were many people outside the house in and around the driveway. At about 11 p.m., Bedeau and her boyfriend got into an argument.

Bedeau became angry as a result of the fight, and was heard saying something to the effect that certain people were "going to die." She got into her truck, accelerated it at a high rate of speed and hit two people standing near the driveway. Brown was killed and Bedeau's sister was seriously injured.

According to the plea agreement, Bedeau acknowledged she acted recklessly, and admitted that she was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Red Lake Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James E. Lackner.